

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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-----002188 231304Z /44

R 230956Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6680
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 7013

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS? PBOR, PINS, DJ, ET, SO
SUBJ: HEIGHTENED ETHIOPIAN CONCERN OVER DJIBOUTI SITUATION

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 6924 (NOTAL), B. DJIBOUTI 0736 (NOTAL),
C. DJIBOUTI 0759 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: DEC 22 ETHIOPIAN MEDIA REPORTED
STOPOVER VISIT OF DJIBOUTI FONMIN ABDALLAH KAMIL
AND CARRIED ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY (MOFA) STATEMENT ON
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN DJIBOUTI. MOFA STATEMENT STRONGEST
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE USED SO FAR AND INDICATIVE OF SERIOUSNESS
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ETHIOPIAN GOVT (EPMG) ATTACHING TO GROWING RIFT BETWEEN
AFARS AND ISSAS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON RETURN HOME FROM VISIT IN ABIDJAN, REPUBLIC OF
DJIBOUTI FONMIN KAMIL STOPPED IN ADDIS ABABA FOR TALKS
WITH ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS ON "MAINTAINING AND STRENGTHEN-
ING INSEPARABLE LONG-STANDING RELATIONS" BETWEEN TWO

COUNTRIES. KAMIL REPORTEDLY WAS TO HAVE FORMAL TALKS WITH ETHIOPIAN MOFA ON HOW TO STRENGTHEN TRADE, ECONOMIC AND OTHER LINKS. KAMIL ADDED HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON PRESENT SITUATION IN DJIBOUTI BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN AWAY.

2. ETHIOPIAN MOFA SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN DJIBOUTI AS "EXTREMELY SERIOUS", EMPHASIZING THAT DJIBOUTI'S FREEDOM AND UNITY COULD BE GUARANTEED ONLY WHEN TWO NATIONALITIES FULLY PARTICIPATED IN COUNTRY'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE AND THAT THIS BALANCED PARTICIPATION MUST BE FREE OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. MOFA SPOKESMAN CHARGED THAT PROBLEM NOW CREATED IN DJIBOUTI UNDER INSTIGATION OF SOMALI EXPANSIONIST GOVT JEOPARDIZING NEWLY-WON INDEPENDENCE AND POTENTIALLY CAPABLE OF WORSENING ALREADY GRAVE SITUATION IN REGION. THIS MATTER OF "SERIOUS CONCERN" TO ETHIOPIA. SPOKESMAN UNDERLINED RESPONSIBILITY OF DJIBOUTIAN OFFICIALS TO SOLVE THEIR INTERNAL PROBLEMS ON OWN WITHOUT EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE. STATEMENT CONCLUDED BY STRONGLY WARNING OUTSIDE POWERS NOT TO MEDDLE IN DJIBOUTI'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

3. SIGNED ARTICLE IN DEC 22 ETHIOPIAN HERALD FURTHER ELABORATES ETHIOPIAN POSITION VIS-A-VIS DJIBOUTI AND SOMALIA. CLAIMING DJIBOUTI LATEST VICTIM OF SOMALI
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LAWLESSNESS, AUTHOR URGES SOMETHING BE DONE TO CHECK THIS KIND OF INTERNATIONAL BRIGANDAGE WHICH HAS BEGUN TO SPILL OVER INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES. WRITER CONTINUES THAT IT SURPRISING DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT GOULED TRYING TO SHIFT BLAME FROM SOMALIA TO ETHIOPIA - A PEACE-LOVING NATION (REFTEL B). HE STATES IT BENEATH ETHIOPIA'S DIGNITY TO ENGAGE IN LOWLY AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. BOUNDARY BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND DJIBOUTI "ARTIFICIALLY SEPARATES TWO COUNTRIES" AND DJIBOUTI NATURAL OUTLET FOR ETHIOPIA. SOMALIA CHARACTERIZED AS TRUE ENEMY OF DJIBOUTI, INTOXICATED BY JEALOUSY, WITH SADISTS SITTING IN MOGADISCIO. SIAD BARRE DESCRIBED AS MANIAC AND SOMALIA AS HAVING TO BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CURRENT UNREST AND INSTABILITY CREATED IN DJIBOUTI.

END UNCLASSIFIED

4. COMMENT: IT NOT DIFFICULT TO PREDICT ACCUSATORY LINE EPMG WILL PROBABLY TAKE TOWARD SOMALIA AND POSSIBLY HASSAN GOULED AS WELL. IF STRONG MEASURES CONTINUE TO BE TAKEN BY DJIBOUTIANS AGAINST AFAR ETHNICS, IT PROBABLE ETHIOPIA WILL ESCALATE ITS RHETORIC AND PERHAPS

ITS MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR AFARS. EPMG HAS NOT BEEN RELUCTANT TO FOLLOW ACTIVIST APPROACH TO RESOLVE OTHER PROBLEMS DEEMED VITAL TO ITS PERCEIVED NATIONAL INTERESTS, AND DJIBOUTI SITUATION WITHIN SCOPE OF THESE INTERESTS. EMBASSY CAN FORESEE INCREASING EPMG INVOLVEMENT IF SITUATION CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE AND WOULD NOT RULE OUT SOME FORM OF INTERVENTION, DESPITE FULL MILITARY COMMITMENTS ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, FLASH POINT HAS NOT BEEN REACHED YET.

MATHERON

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Message Attributes

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